

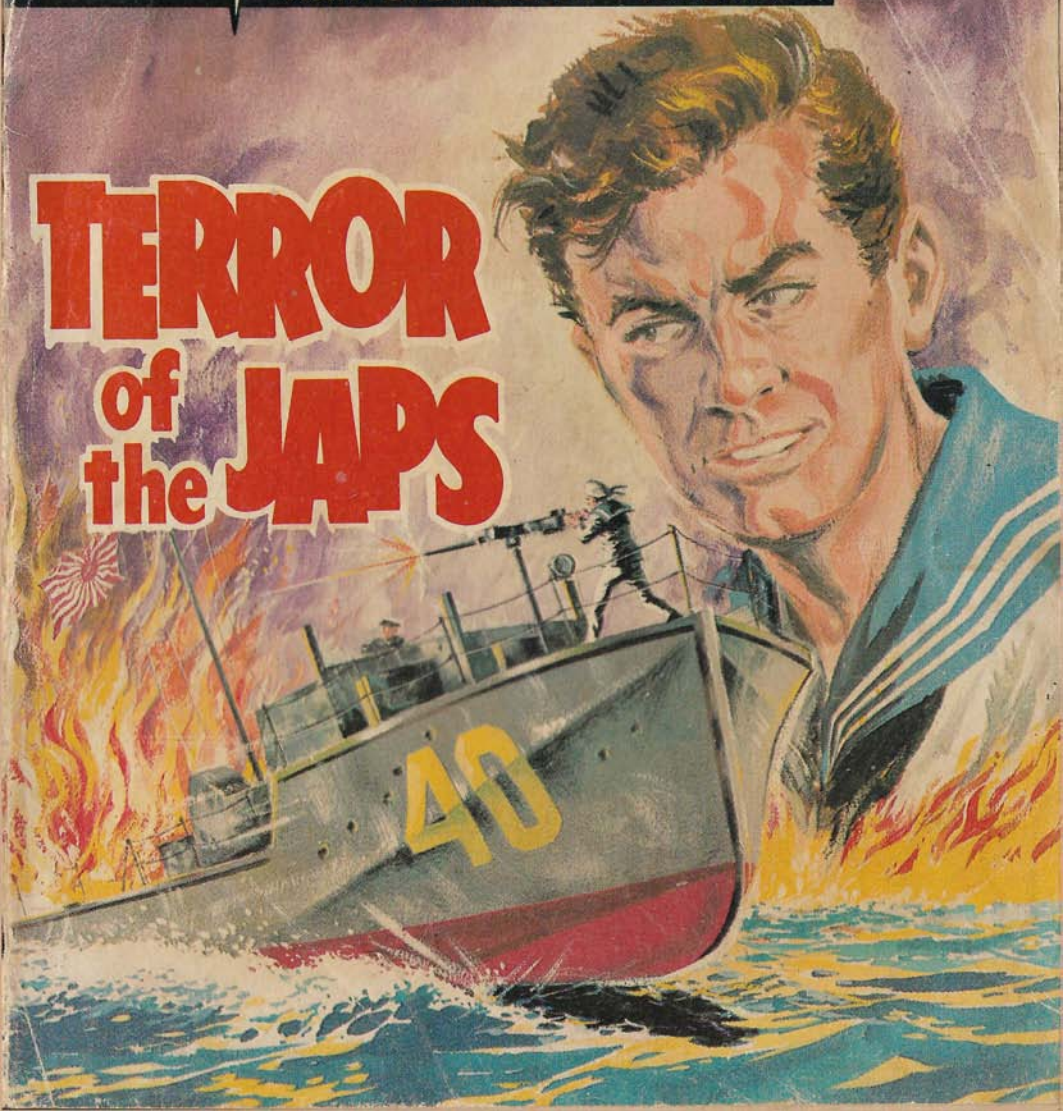
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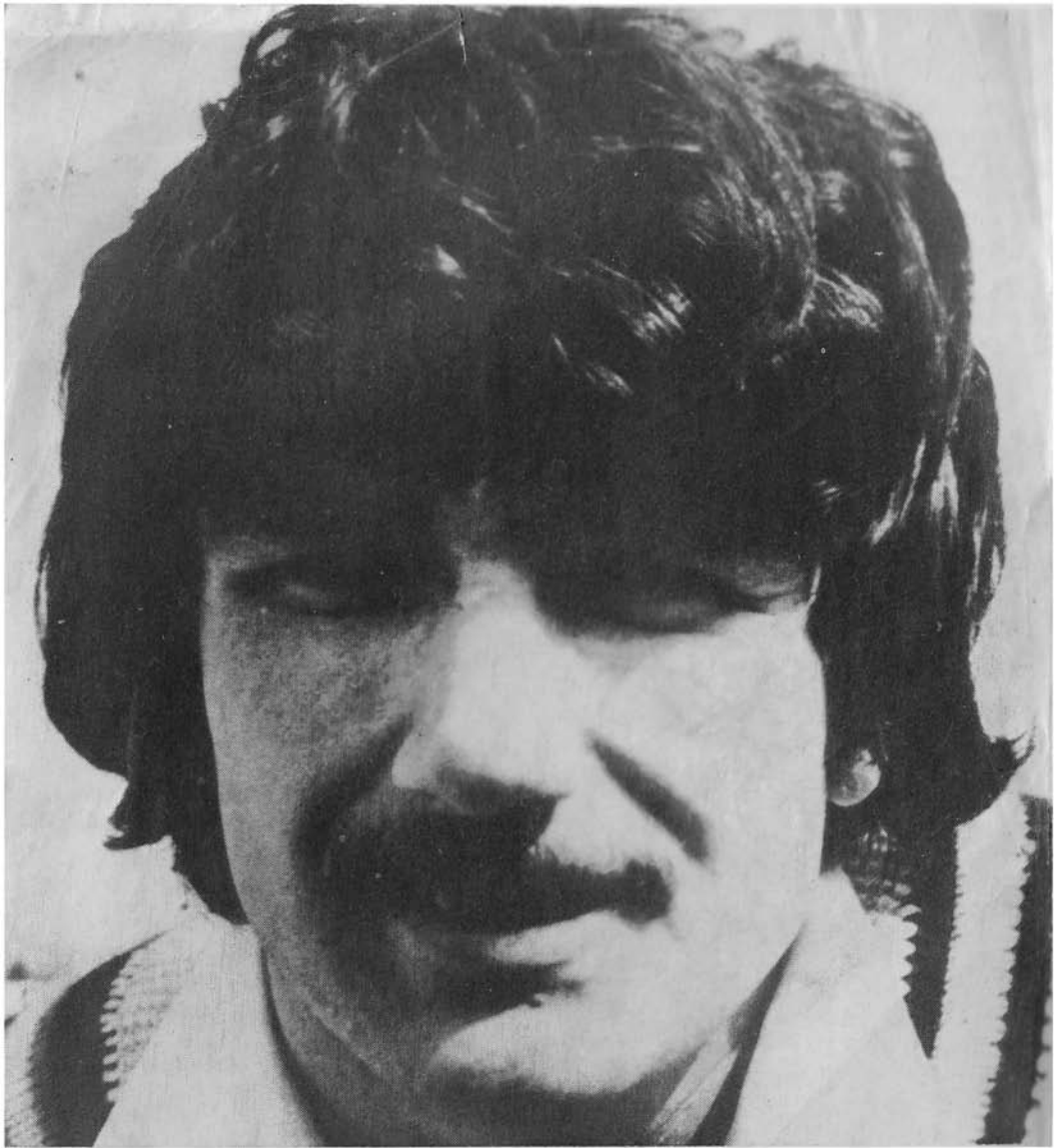
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Commando

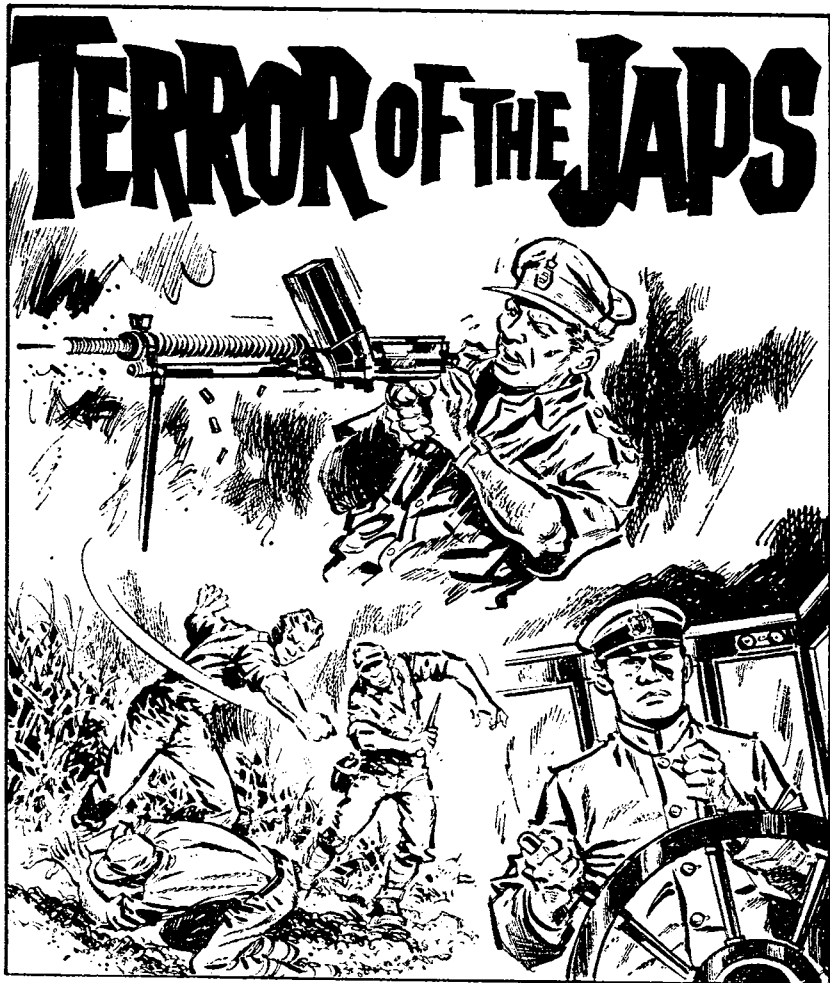
WAR STORIES IN PICTURES

TERROR of the JAPS





Stars of Cricket — Philip Oliver



○ SAKI MANO WAS A JAPANESE NAVAL OFFICER. A GOOD MAN, BRAVE AND HONOURABLE, HE HAD SWORN TO FIGHT HIS COUNTRY'S ENEMIES TO THE DEATH. THEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH TWO OF THOSE ENEMIES, AND HE RECOGNISED THEM. BEFORE THE WAR THEY HAD BEEN AT SCHOOL WITH HIM. THEY HAD BEEN HIS BEST FRIENDS...

First published 1970

IN THE FIRST UNEASY MONTHS OF THE WAR IN EUROPE THERE WAS MUCH SPECULATION ON ITS OUTCOME. AND WHILE THEY SPRAWLED AT THEIR FEETURE IN A GARDEN IN TOKYO, THE THOUGHTS OF THREE YOUNG MEN WERE FAR FROM THEIR SURROUNDINGS.



MY DAD SAYS THE WAR'S GOING VERY BADLY FOR US. NAZIS SWEEPING THEIR WAY THROUGH EUROPE... BRITAIN WITHOUT DECENT ARMS.

I HOPE IT'LL BE OVER BEFORE WE GET THE CHANCE TO JOIN UP AND GET INTO IT.

ENGLISHMAN DAN ABBOTT AND AUSTRALIAN SAM WALLER, BOTH BELONGING TO CONSULAR FAMILIES, HAD SPENT MUCH OF THEIR BOYHOOD IN TOKYO; THEIR CLOSE FRIEND AT SCHOOL WAS OSAKI MANO, JAPANESE SON OF A DIPLOMATIC CORPS OFFICIAL.

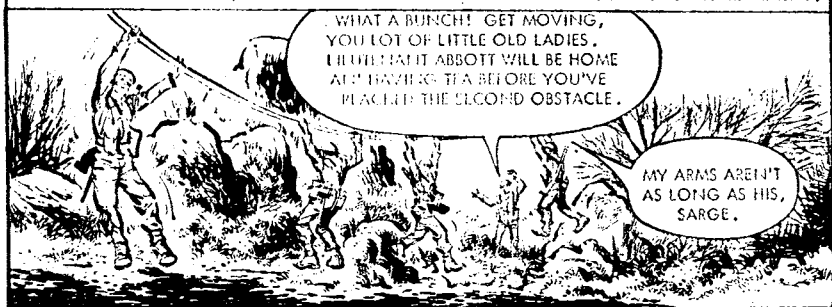


CHEER UP, YOU TWO. BRITAIN ALWAYS WINS THE LAST BATTLE.

THAT USED TO BE THE RULE. BUT THINGS HAVE A HABIT OF CHANGING, AND NOT ALWAYS FOR THE BETTER.

AT THAT TIME THERE WAS NO HINT THAT THE JAPS PLANNED AN ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN BASE AT PEARL HARBOR. YOUNG OSAKI AND HIS FRIENDS HAD NO IDEA THAT SOON THEY TOO WOULD BE CAUGHT UP IN A WAR WHERE FRIENDSHIP WOULD BE TESTED TO BREAKING POINT.

BUT SOON BOTH DAN AND SAM WERE OLD ENOUGH TO JOIN THE ALLIED FORCES. DAN RETURNED TO ENGLAND, AND WAS QUICKLY COMMISSIONED IN HIS FATHER'S OLD REGIMENT.



SAM PUT HIS TOUGHNESS TO GOOD USE AND JOINED THE AUSSIE FORCES. HE WAS SOON BATTLING IT OUT IN THE DESERT.



OSAFU ENROLLED IN THE JAPANESE NAVAL ACADEMY, LEARNING THE ARTS OF SEAMANSHIP AND NAVIGATION.



THEN JAPAN, EVEN WHILE HER DIPLOMATS WERE STILL SITTING AROUND THE NEGOTIATION TABLE IN WASHINGTON, STRUCK HER TEARFUL BLOW AT PEARL HARBOR, REDUCING THE CREAM OF THE AMERICAN FLEET TO SHREDDINGS.

FILTHY YELLOW
RATS!

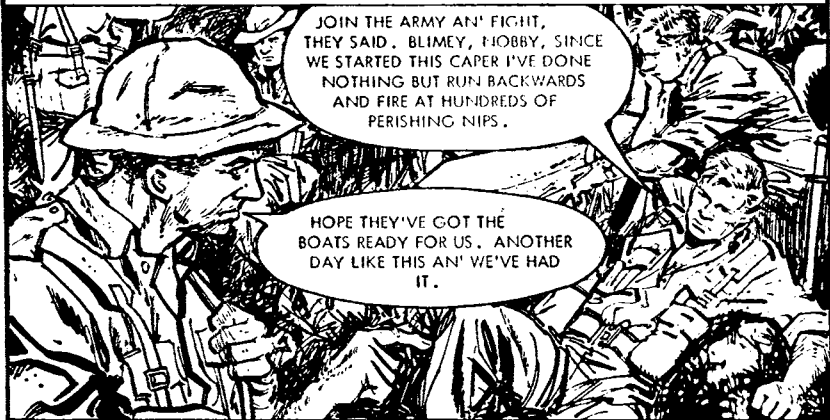
WE HAVE STRUCK A GREAT
BLOW FOR OUR EMPIRE. THE
FOUR FLEETS HAVE TASTED THE
EDGE OF DEFEAT. AND
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING...



ONLY THE BEGINNING IT WAS! THE YELLOW TIDE SPREAD WITH AMAZING RAPIDITY. THERE WAS NO DOUBTING NOW THE FINE FIGHTING QUALITIES OF THE JAPANESE. ALLIED FORCES WERE FORCED FROM ONE RETREAT TO THE NEXT.

JOIN THE ARMY AN' FIGHT,
THEY SAID. BLIMEY, HOBBOY, SINCE
WE STARTED THIS CAPER I'VE DONE
NOTHING BUT RUN BACKWARDS
AND FIRE AT HUNDREDS OF
PERISHING NIPS.

HOPE THEY'VE GOT THE
BOATS READY FOR US. ANOTHER
DAY LIKE THIS AN' WE'VE HAD
IT.



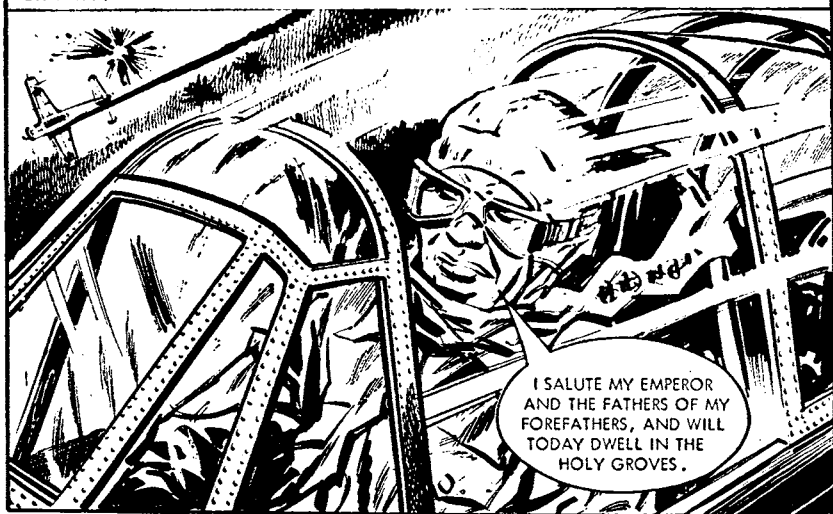
MANY ALLIED FORCES WERE REMOVED FROM WESTERN BATTLE ZONES TO HELP REINFORCE THE FIGHTING IN THE EAST. AMONG THEM WAS DAN, NOW PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN.



BUT DAN SOON REALISED HOW HOSTILE THE JAPS COULD BE.



SOON THE FANATICAL JAP PILOTS WERE FLYING THROUGH A CURTAIN OF ALLIED STEEL, EACH PILOT SELECTING AN IMPORTANT TARGET AND PREPARING HIMSELF FOR THAT FINAL DIVE INTO ETERNITY.



DAN STARED UNBELIEVINGLY AS THE SUICIDE PLANE BEGAN ITS DEATH DIVE STRAIGHT TOWARDS HIS TROOPSHIP.



IT CRASHED IN A GIANT GOUT OF FLAME AND CONCUSSION JUST FORWARD OF THE BRIDGE, THROWING DAN AND MANY OTHERS OVERBOARD.



ANOTHER PLANE TORE INTO THE TROOPER IN EXACTLY THE SAME PLACE AS HIS COMRADE, CUTTING DEEP INTO THE SHIP'S FALTERING HEART.



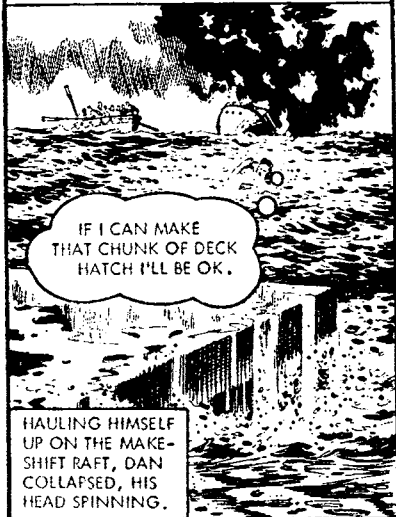
THE OLD SHIP TOOK ON A HEAVY LIST TO STARBOARD. ALL THE AHEAD'S SYSTEMS WERE BLOWN OUT OF ORDER, AND IN THE CONFUSION THE SOLDIERS BEGAN TO ABANDON SHIP.



ANOTHER SERIES OF NERVE-RENDING EXPLOSIONS RIPPED THE SHIP AND SHE BEGAN TO GO DOWN FAST. DAN HAD BEEN CONCUSSED AND CAME TO IN THE WATER.



STILL DAZED, HE SWAM AWAY FROM THE FEW LAUNCHED BOATS, INTENT ONLY ON GETTING AWAY FROM THE DYING SHIP.



HOURS LATER, IN THE COLD DARK NIGHT, DAN RECOVERED TO FIND HIMSELF ALONE ON THE SEA.



HE DIDN'T SEE THE PERISCOPE STICKING UP FROM THE WATER A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY.



BENEATH THE WAVES THE DARK EXPRESSIONLESS EYES OF ONE SUBMARINE COMMANDER SAZIKI OBSERVED THE LONE RAFT.



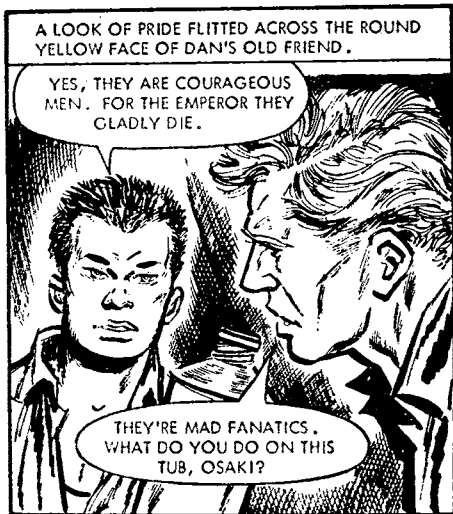
DAN STARED AS THE SUB ROSE FROM THE SEA, WATER POURING FROM IT.

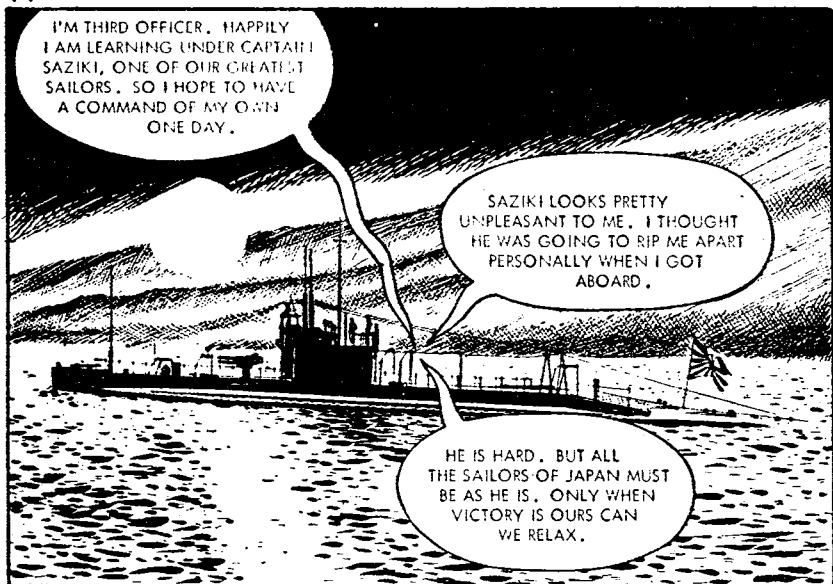


PAINFULLY DAN CLAMBERED ABOARD THE SUB AND WAS PUT INTO A TINY CELL RIGHT NEXT TO THE TORPEDO TUBES. FOR AN HOUR HE BROWSED WEARILY ON THOUGHTS OF ESCAPE. THEN...



FATE WAS PLAYING A VERY STRANGE TRICK. OSAKI WAS AN OFFICER ON BOARD THIS SUBMARINE WHICH HAD PICKED UP DAN.





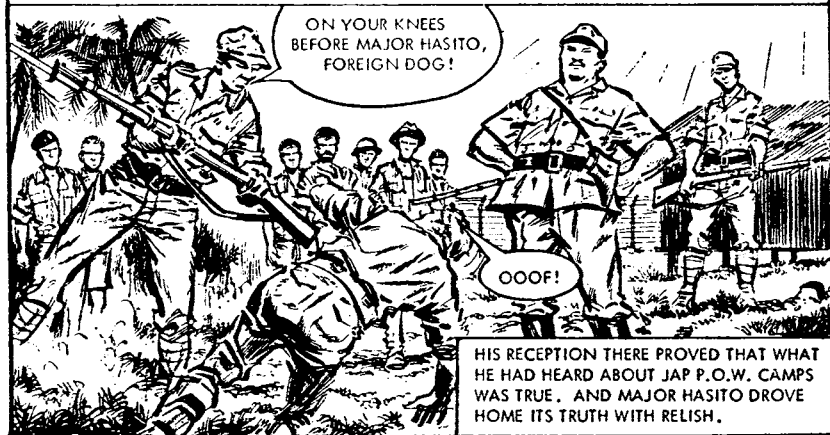
DAN STARED IN SURPRISE AT HIS OLD FRIEND, SEEING THE NEW FANATICISM IN HIS EYES.



THEY WERE STILL FRIENDS. BUT NOT AS BEFORE. NOW THERE WAS THE BARRIER OF OSAKI'S NEW, ZEALOUS BELIEFS BETWEEN THEM.



DAN WAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY ONE OF THE SUBMARINE'S CREW, A SKILLED CAMERAMAN, AND WHEN THE VESSEL DOCKED, THE PICTURES WERE SENT FOR PUBLICATION IN JAPAN. THEN HE WAS MARCHED ON TO A TRAIN AND SENT TO THE ISLAND PRISON CAMP OF TUA.



FAT AND SADISTIC, THE MAJOR RULED TUA WITH A POLICE AND FEAR. EVEN HIS OWN MEN WALKED IN TERROR OF HIS SUDDEN EVIL MOODS.



MEANWHILE, ON AN ISLAND FIFTY MILES NORTH OF TUA, LIEUTENANT SAM WALLER AND THE REMNANTS OF HIS AUSSIE COMPANY WERE FIGHTING A DESPERATE REARGUARD ACTION.



THIS IS HOW IT HAD BEEN EVER SINCE SAM HAD ARRIVED IN THE EAST — FIGHTING OFF HORDES OF ADVANCING JAPS UNTIL THE BULLETS RAN OUT AND ARMS GREW TOO WEARY TO HOLD A BAYONET.



BUT THE WEIGHT OF NUMBERS WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE HARDY AUSSIES, AND EVEN SAM FELL BEFORE THEIR ONSLAUGHT.



SO SAM ENDED UP IN TUA, ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER DAN'S ARRIVAL THERE. THE TWO FRIENDS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE SAME HUT AND THAT NIGHT SWOPPED THEIR NEWS. DAN TOLD THE AUSSIE OF HIS MEETING WITH OSAKI.



THE NEXT MORNING AT THE AIRSTRIP...



THE MAJOR STOOD WATCHING THE MEN WORK FOR A TIME. THEN...



THE HOT-TEMPERED AUSSIE THREW ASIDE HIS SHOVEL AND SEIZED HASITO.



THE GUARDS TORE SAM AWAY FROM THE MAJOR, SECURING HIM AND DAN.



HASITO WAS ABOUT TO GIVE THE ORDER FOR SAM'S EXECUTION WHEN HE PAUSED, THEN GRINNED.



THE SWEAT BOX, A TINY CELL STANDING IN THE SUN, WAS AN INFERNO OF HEAT.



SORRY, DAN. I
JUST COULDN'T TAKE
THAT JOKER'S CANE.

FORGET IT. I'M ONLY
SORRY I DIDN'T GET IN A
PUNCH OR TWO MYSELF.

NEXT MORNING, GENERAL MANAHITA ARRIVED AT TUA. HASITO HAD A BURNING DESIRE TO IMPRESS MANAHITA, AND THE GENERAL WOULD NO DOUBT BE PLEASED TO WITNESS THE EXECUTIONS.



WE ARE READY
TO START NOW,
EXCELLENCY.

YOUR ZEAL IS A CREDIT
TO THE IMPERIAL FORCES.
IT WILL NOT PASS UNREWARDED.

AS THE OFFICERS TOOK THEIR PLACE AND THE CONDEMNED MEN WERE FORCED TO KNEEL, TWO SPITFIRES APPROACHED. THEY WERE NOT THERE BY CHANCE. ALLIED INTELLIGENCE HAD REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF GENERAL MANAHITA AND THE ALIENS HAD LONG WAITED TO NAIL HIM.



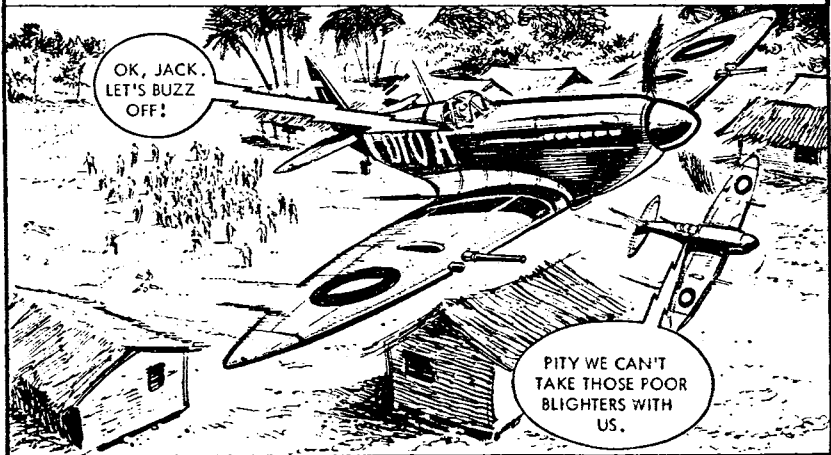
DAN FELT THE SUN ON HIM, YET WAS AS COLD AS ICE AS THE EXECUTIONER SWUNG HIS BLEN BLADE THROUGH THE AIR IN THE PRACTICE STROKES DEMANDED BY THE CEREMONIAL. THE...



LIKE TWO EAGLES, THE PLANES SWOOPED OVER TUA, THEIR GUNS HAMMERING A STACCATO CHANT OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. GENERAL MANAHITA RAN FOR COVER BUT WAS NOWHERE NEAR FAST ENOUGH.



THE SPITFIRES MADE TWO MORE PASSES OVER THE CAMP, SHOOTING AT ANY JAPS THEY COULD SPOT. THEN, THEIR MISSION COMPLETED, THEY TURNED FOR HOME.



AS THEIR ENGINES FADED, MAJOR HASTED EMERGED FROM COVER. HE SAW THE DEAD BODY OF THE GENERAL AND WISHED, FOR THE DISHONOUR WOULD STAIN HIS FUTURE.



BRING BACK THOSE PRISONERS! IF YOU FAIL THEN YOU WILL FEEL THE EDGE OF MY SWORD!

AS HASTED BOILED IN HIS RAGE, DAN AND SAM LEANED ON THEIR WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE.



WE CALLED THE RUMBLE. WHAT ABOUT HIDDEN?

THAT POOL MIGHT HELP, IF THE STRAW TRICK WORKS.

BOTH MEN WADED IN THE STAGNANT WATER, PLUCKING DRY REEDS FROM THE SWAMPY BANK.



NOW WE JUST SINK TO THE BOTTOM LIKE A COUPLE OF HIPPOS AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.

BUCK UP, THEN. I CAN HEAR THEM COMING!

THE DECEIT WORKED. THE JAPS RACED PAST, NOT SEEING THE TWO MEN UNDER THE SCUMMY WATER.



THEY GAVE IT FIVE MINUTES, THEN SURFACED.



BUT AS THEY CRASHED THROUGH THE BUSHES,
THEY DISTURBED SOME RESTING JAPS.



DAN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE JAPS' SURPRISE, WHILE SAM, WHO LANDED SMACK ON TOP OF
THEM, WASTED NO TIME IN SETTING ABOUT THEM.



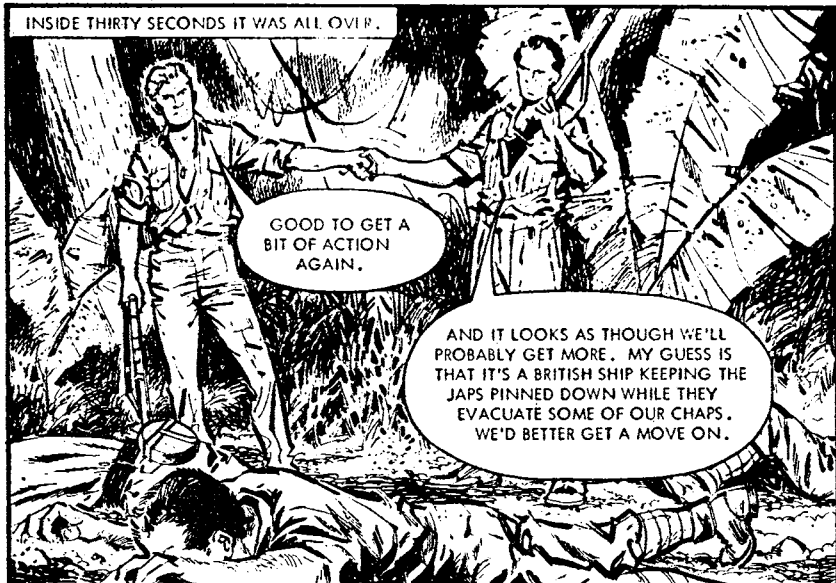
THEIR EXHAUSTION FORGOTTEN, THE PAIR FOUGHT LIKE TIGERS.



AND LIKE THE PREY OF TIGERS, THE JAPS HAD LITTLE CHANCE.



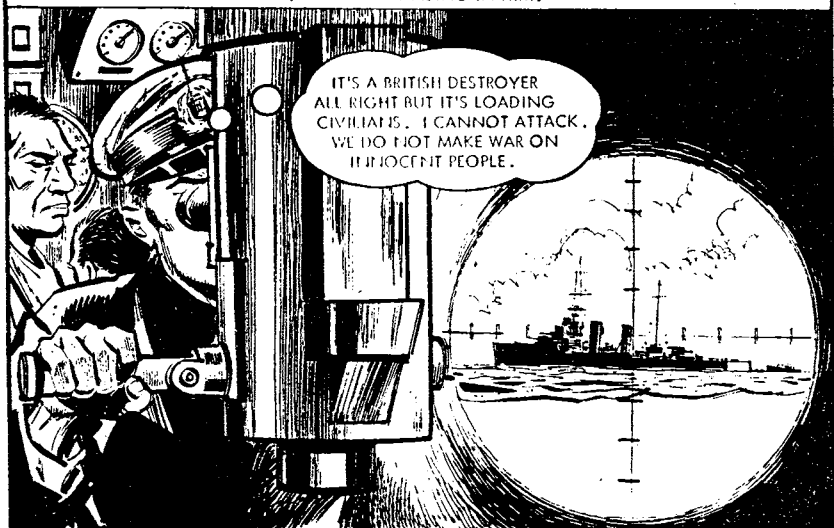
INSIDE THIRTY SECONDS IT WAS ALL OVER.



SOME FIVE MILES WEST, LIEUTENANT OSAKI MANO WAS OFFICER OF THE WATCH AS HIS SUBMARINE PATROLLED THE COAST AT PERISCOPE DEPTH.



THE MESSAGE CARRIED ORDERS TO SINK A BRITISH DESTROYER THAT WAS FIRING ON TUA. OSAKI PEERED THROUGH THE PERISCOPE, EXCITEMENT RISING IN HIM.



AS OSAKI ORDERED A COURSE THAT WOULD TAKE THEM AWAY FROM THE SCENE, CAPTAIN SAZIKI STALKED ON TO THE CONTROL DECK.



THE CAPTAIN DID NOT LET OSAKI FINISH. HE LOOKED THROUGH THE PERISCOPE AND SOON SAW THE DESTROYER. HE WHISTLED OFF THE FATE OF ALL.



BUT SAZIKI, IN DEALING WITH OSAKI, HAD TAKEN HIS ATTENTION OFF THE DESTROYER. ON THE SHIP, A SHARP-EYED RATING SPOTTED THE PERISCOPE.



A FEW RAPPED ORDERS, AND THE FIRST SALVO OF DEPTH CHARGES WAS FLUNG TOWARDS THE SUBMARINE.



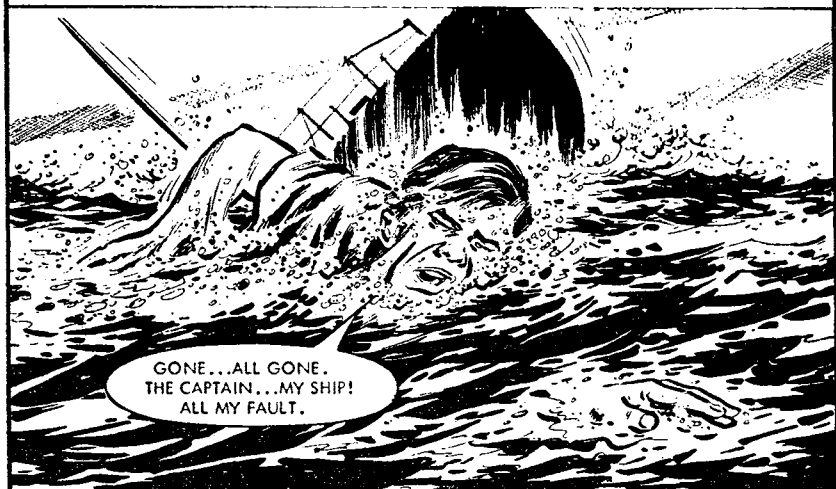
INSIDE THE SUB THERE WAS SUDDENLY CHAOS. AWESOME CONCUSSIONS SPRANG RIVETS, AND THE SEA BEGAN TO POUR IN THROUGH THE BUCKLED HULL.



THE SECOND SALVO FINISHED THE JOB. SAZIKI'S SUBMARINE REARED UP IN THE WATER LIKE A STRICKEN WHALE, DYING IN A GREAT POOL OF GUSHING OIL.



THE SUB SPLIT LIKE A GUTTED FISH, THROWING MEN OUT OF ITS FRACTURED SIDES. THESE WERE THE LUCKY ONES, AND OSAKI MATSUO WAS AMONG THEM. MOST, LIKE CAPTAIN SAZIKI, WERE TRAPPED IN THE WRECKAGE AND SLID DOWN WITH THE SHATTERED HULL INTO THE DARK WAITING DEPTHS.



HE STRUGGLED TO THE BEACH WHERE TWO OF THE AUSTRALIAN GARRISON FOUND HIM.



STILL NUMB WITH SHOCK, OSAKI WAS LED BACK TO THE BEACH-HEAD H.Q.



THEN DAN AND SAM APPEARED, SPRINTING UP THE BEACH FOR ALL THEY WERE WORTH.



AS THEY RAN FOR THE LAUNCH, DAN AND SAM PASSED OSAKI, NOT RECOGNISING THE WET, BEDRAGGLED SAILOR AS THEIR FORMER FRIEND.



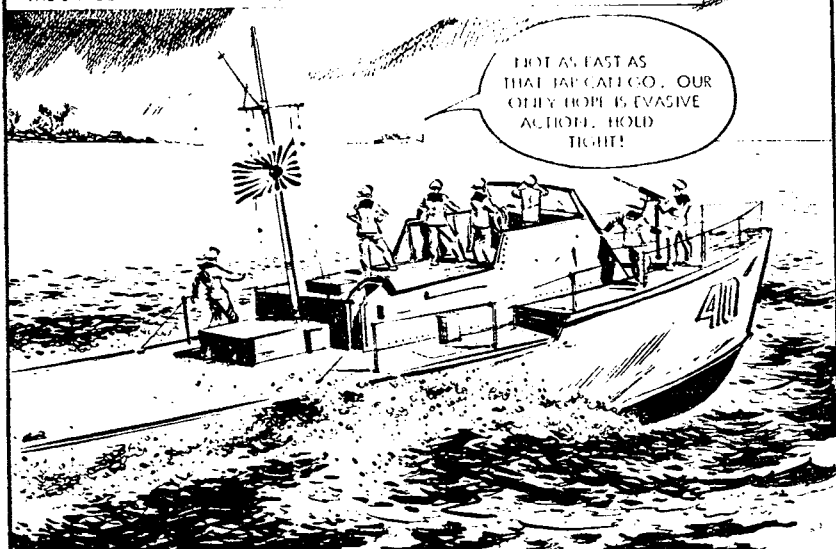
OSAKI DID NOT SEE THEM EITHER. SURROUNDED BY HIS SURVIVING SHIPMATES, HE STARED AT THE SAND, STILL GNAWED BY HIS OWN REMORSE.



THE LAUNCH FOARED AFTER THE DEPARTING DESTROYER. THEIR PLANNED RENDEZVOUS WAS TEN MILES OUT AT SEA, AND IT LOOKED AS THOUGH EVERYTHING WOULD GO SMOOTHLY. THEN...



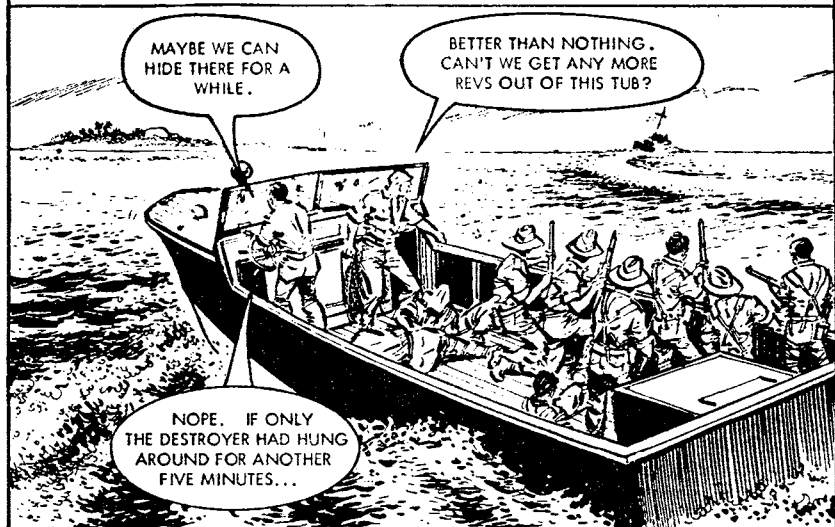
THE JAP BOAT ROARED CLOSER, CUTTING BETWEEN THEM AND THE DESTROYER.



ABOVE THE DEEP-THROATED SNARL OF THEIR ENGINES THEY DIDN'T HEAR THE JAP MACHINE GUN OPEN UP. BUT THEY SOON FELT THE EFFECT OF ITS DEADLY BULLETS.



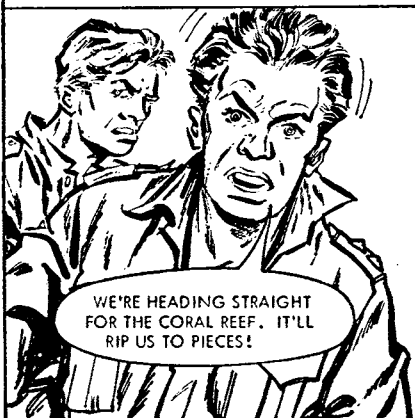
AS THE JAP LAUNCH CIRCLED FOR ANOTHER ATTACK, SAM STEERED TOWARDS A SMALL ISLAND THAT LAY DEAD AHEAD OF THEM.



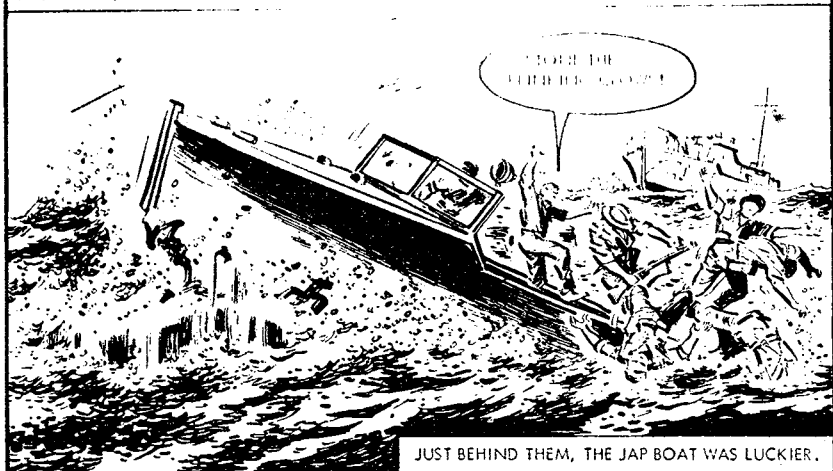
ONCE AGAIN THE JAP CAME STREAKING IN LIKE A SHARK.



AS THEY NEARED THE ISLAND, SAM OPENED HIS MOUTH TO YELL HIS DELIGHT. SUDDENLY HE SAW SOMETHING THAT MADE HIM SHOUT A WARNING.



BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING BUT HANG ON. THE LAUNCH TORE INTO THE SHARP-EDGED REEF, RIPPING OPEN ITS BOTTOM AND DROPPING THE SOLDIERS INTO THE FOAMING SEA.



A WAVE CARRIED THE JAP LAUNCH OVER THE REEF. IT LANDED WITH A GIANT IMPACT THAT TUMBLED THE CREW TO THE DECK.



BEFORE THE BEWILDERED JAPS KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING ...



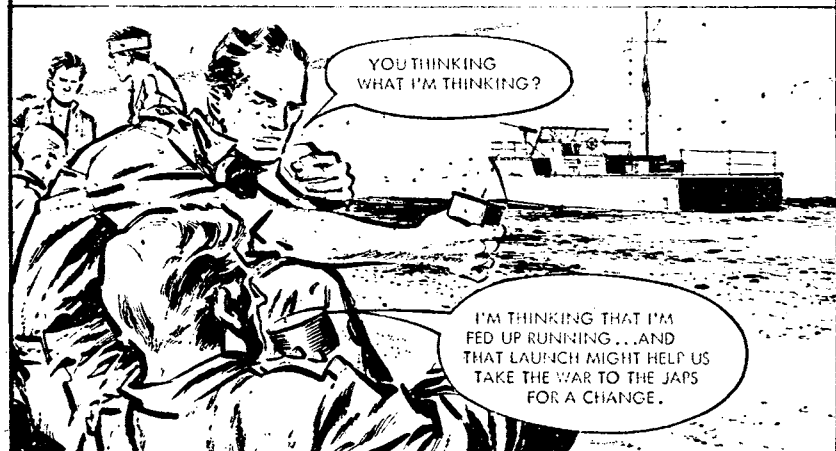
THE BATTLE CRY OF JAPAN, BELLOWED FROM THE LIPS OF A WHITE MAN, WAS THE LAST SOUND THE NIPS HEARD AS DAN OPENED UP ON THEM.

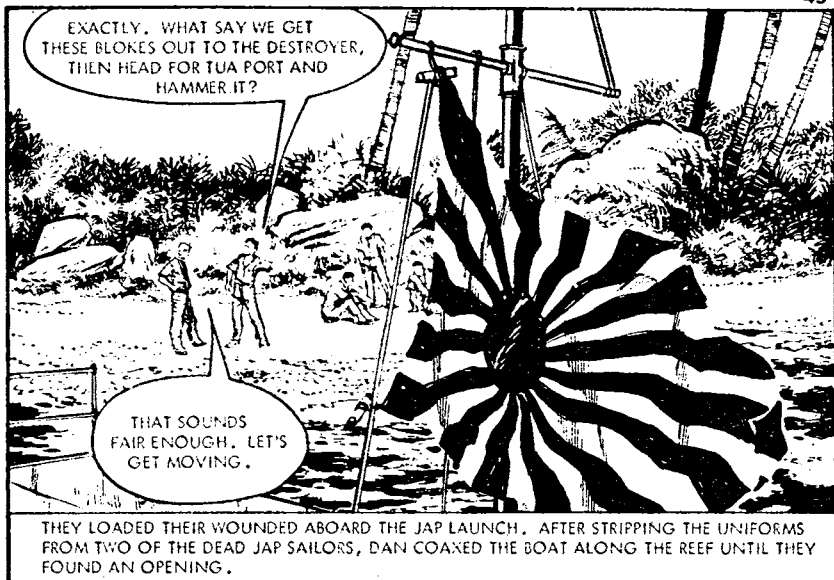


THEY WIPED OUT THE JAPS THEN MADE FOR THE ISLAND OFF WHICH THE SURVIVING AUSTRALIANS HAD BEACHED.



THERE WERE FIVE AUSSIE SURVIVORS. DAN AND SAM TENDED THE WOUNDED, OPENED UP A FEW CANS OF BULLY BEEF AND WASHED IT DOWN WITH FIERY SAKI.





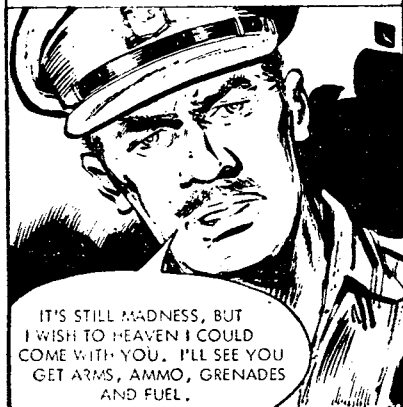
SOON THEY GOT TO THE WAITING BRITISH DESTROYER. WILLING HANDS HELPED THEM ABOARD, AND DAN AND SAM SOUGHT OUT THE SKIPPER.



THE CAPTAIN LOOKED TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CLAP FOR APPROVAL.



THAT WAS FIGHTING TALK FROM SAM, AND THE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LIKED IT. HE EYED THE TOUGH PAIR WITH APPROVAL AS HE SPOKE.



AS SOON AS THEIR SUPPLIES WERE LOADED —



THEY CAST OFF AND HEADED FOR TUA. THE SUN WAS SINKING INTO THE SEA AND THE QUICK TROPIC NIGHT WAS ALMOST ON THEM WHEN THEY SIGHTED THE ISLAND.

I THINK THEY WERE RIGHT WHEN THEY SAID THIS WOULD BE SUICIDE. FOR INSTANCE, HOW DO WE GET BACK?

THE DESTROYER'S SAILED, BUT THEY SAID THEY'D RADIO ANYTHING COMING THIS WAY TO KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR US. SHOULDN'T BE BEYOND US TO THINK OF SOMETHING.

AT THE PORT OF TUA...

THERE IT IS. HELP ME EMPTY THESE DRUMS OF FUEL OVER THE SIDE.

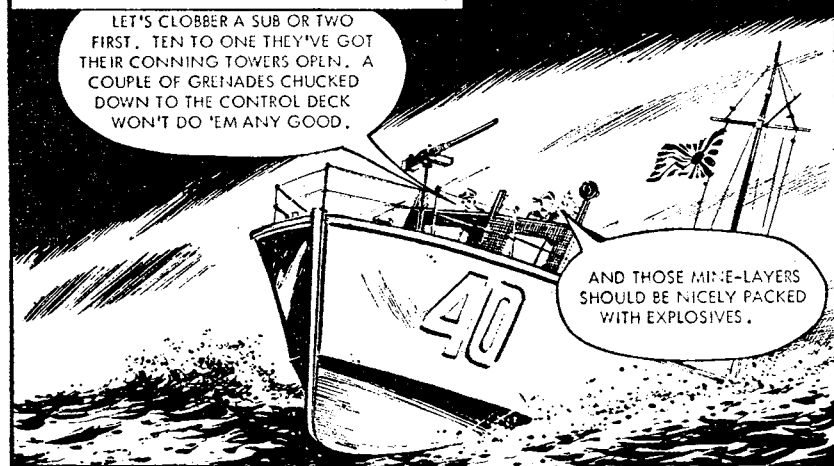
DON'T WE NEED THEM ANY MORE?

REMEMBER WHAT NAPOLEON SAID - "ALWAYS PREPARE YOUR RETREAT".

THE FUEL DRIFTED IN TOWARDS THE PORT, CARRIED BY THE TIDE.



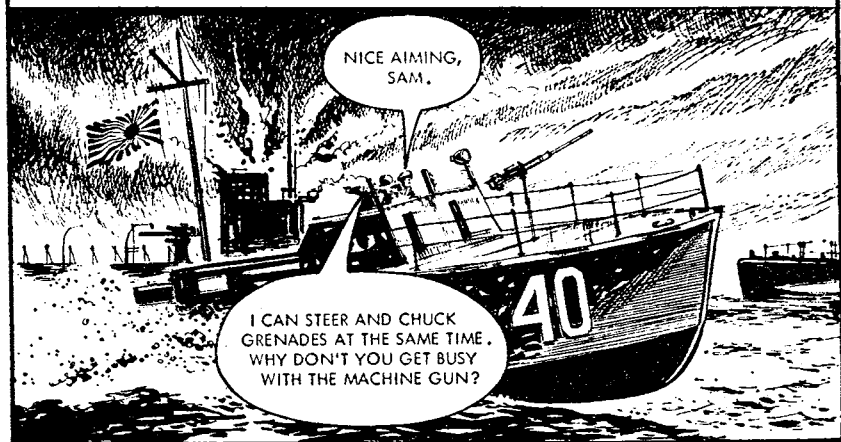
DAN OPENED THE THROTTLE AND IN THEY ROARED.



THE BATTLE OF TUA PORT BEGAN IN SPECTACULAR FASHION.



THE SUBMARINES WERE ALMOST DESERTED BUT THE GRENADES PLAYED HAVOC WITH THE DELICATE INSTRUMENTS. TWO WERE MADE UNFIT FOR DUTY IN SECONDS.



AS THE TWO MAZAMBERS SPED AWAY, THE JAPANESE GARRISON ROUSED ITSELF.



THE GREATEST MENACE WAS THE TROOPS WHO TOOK UP FIRING POSITIONS ON THE HARBOUR WALL.



THE LINE OF DEADLY JAPS WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH BEFORE THE RAID COULD CONTINUE. DAN DID SOME QUICK THINKING.



WORK IT DID. AS THE LAUNCH SURGED PAST JAPS, DAN MOWED THEM DOWN WITH RELENTLESS EASE.



HE SOON CLEARED THE WALL OF JAPS. AND, AS THE LAST ONE FELL, SAM AGAIN TURNED THE NOSE OF THE BOAT TOWARDS THE HEART OF TUA HARBOUR.



IN HIS QUARTERS, WHERE HE HAD BEEN CONFINED SINCE HIS RETURN FROM THE BEACH, OSAKI HEARD THE CONCUSSIONS AND SAW HIS OPPORTUNITY.



HE RACED FROM THE DOCK, SNAPPED ORDERS AT TWO RATINGS AND STARTED UP THE POWERFUL ENGINES OF A COASTAL LAUNCH.



MEANWHILE DAN AND SAM WERE STILL BUSY UNLEASHING THEIR FURY ON THE HAPLESS JAP FLEET.



SAM DID JUST THAT.



THERE WAS NO STOPPING THEM. THE JAPS MANNING THE SUB'S GUN WERE SHOT INTO THE SEA.

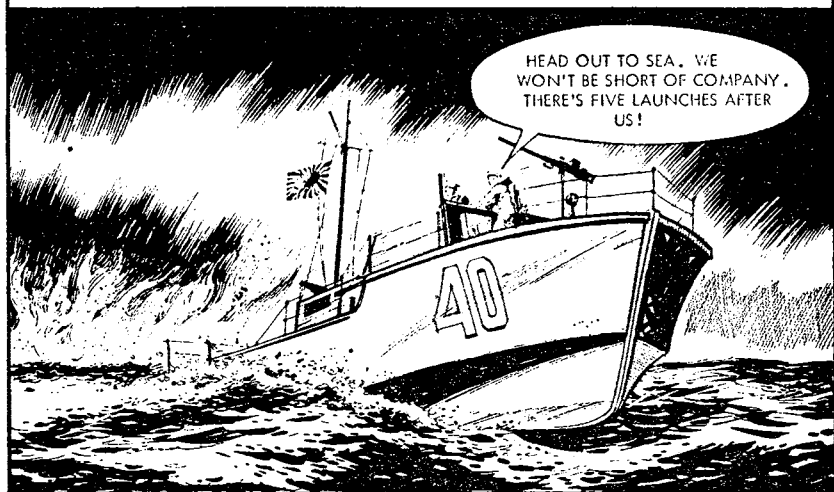
AND SAM'S GRENADES WRECKED HALF-A-DOZEN MORE JAPS, AND YET ANOTHER SUBMARINE CONTROL DECK.



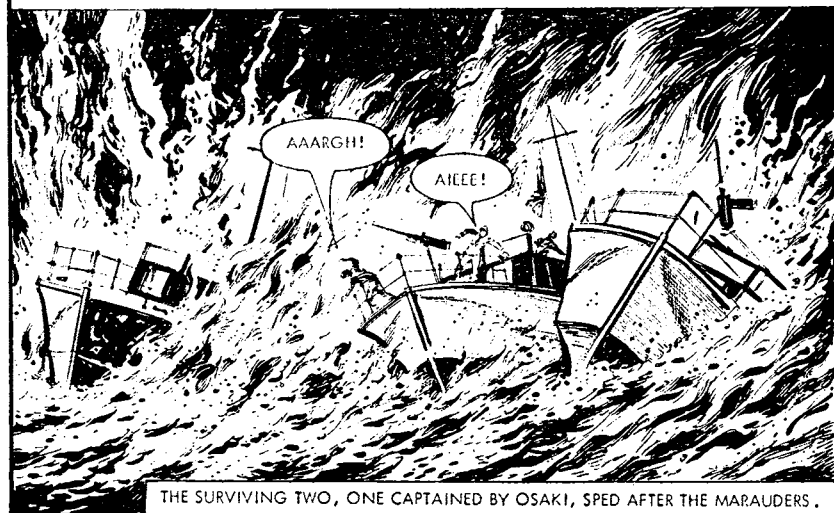
AS THEY CLEARED THE HARBOUR, SAM FIRED A FLARE
INTO THE OIL AND PETROL THEY'D DITCHED EARLIER.



THERE WAS FIRE AND DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE. BUT THE REAL FIREWORKS WERE ONLY JUST BEGINNING.



THREE OF THE LAUNCHES ON THEIR TAIL WERE CAUGHT BY THE SEA OF FLAME AND PERISHED.



THE SURVIVING TWO, ONE CAPTAINED BY OSAKI, SPED AFTER THE MARAUDERS.

AS THE PORT OF TUA DROPPED ASTERTI...



THE CHASE CONTINUED, LIGHTED BY A FITFUL MOON. OSAKI'S HEART BEAT FASTER AS HE SKILFULLY URGED ON HIS LAUNCH.



BUT THE FIGHTING CAPABILITIES OF DAN AND SAM WERE AT THAT MOMENT SUFFERING A SEVERE SETBACK.



BUT FOR A TIME THE JAPS WERE CONTENT TO KEEP THEIR DISTANCE, FIGHTING IT OUT WITH MACHINE GUNS.



THE WIND WAS FRESHENING, MAKING THE SEA CHOPPY. THIS SAVED SAM, FOR THE JAP GUNNERS AIMED BADLY.



THEN, INFURIATED BY HIS GUNNERS' INCOMPETENCE, THE CAPTAIN OF THE SECOND LAUNCH THREW CAUTION TO THE WINDS AND HURLED HIS BOAT IN.

HE SOON PAID THE PRICE OF HIS FOLLY AS A GRENADE SPUN ONTO THE CRAFT.



OSAKI EDGED CLOSER AND NOW RECOGNISED THE ENEMY.



BUT HE WENT TOO CLOSE, NOT RECKONING ON SAM'S LIGHTNING REFLEXES.

THE ALMOST RED-HOT BARREL OF THE AUSSIE'S MACHINE GUN CHATTERED INSTANT DEATH FOR THE JAP RATINGS.



THE SILENCE WHICH FOLLOWED AS THE LONE JAP SURVIVOR'S FACE BECAME VISIBLE IN THE GLOOM WAS BROKEN BY AN EXCLAMATION FROM SAM.



SO IT WAS THAT THE THREE FRIENDS CAME TOGETHER AGAIN IN THE MIDST OF WAR, SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.



FOR A TIME THE WAR WAS FORGOTTEN AS THEY ROCKED GENTLY ON THE CALMING SEA.



BUT IT WAS NOT THE SAME AS THE OLD DAYS. THE WAR STOOD BETWEEN THEM AND COULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN.



SUDDENLY A FLURRY OF WATER ON THE STARBOARD SIDE OF THE LAUNCH CAUGHT THEIR EYE.



IT WAS BRITISH.



WILLING HANDS HELPED THE TWO WOUNDED MEN.



THEN A ROAR OF ENGINES TURNED EVERYONE'S ATTENTION TO OSAKI.



"D-S-O-!" — THE INITIALS OF THEIR THREE NAMES. ALWAYS THEIR GREETING AND FAREWELL IN THE OLD DAYS OF PEACE.

DAN AND SAM HAD NOT ENTERED THE SUB BEFORE THERE CAME A SHOUT FROM AN ALERT SAILOR.



THE PLANE WAS A JAPANESE BOMBER SENT TO SCOUR THE AREA FOR DAN AND SAM.

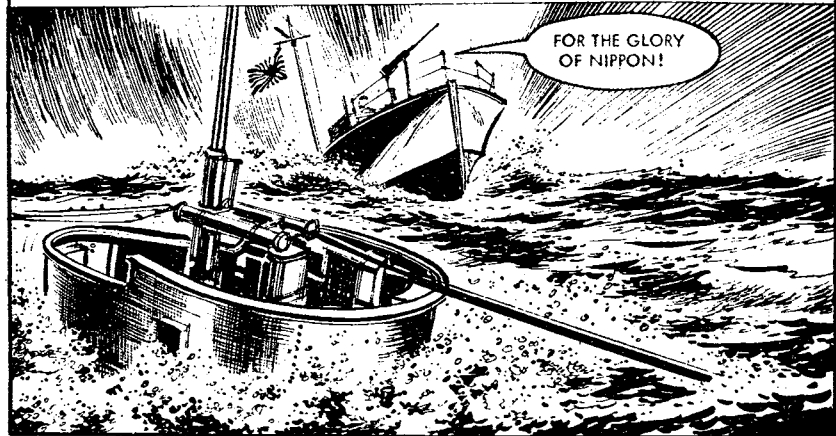


SO! THE DOGS WHO DESTROYED TUA PORT THINK THEY CAN ESCAPE THIS EASILY. IT SHALL GIVE ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BLAST THEM AND THEIR SUBMARINE OUT OF THE SEA.

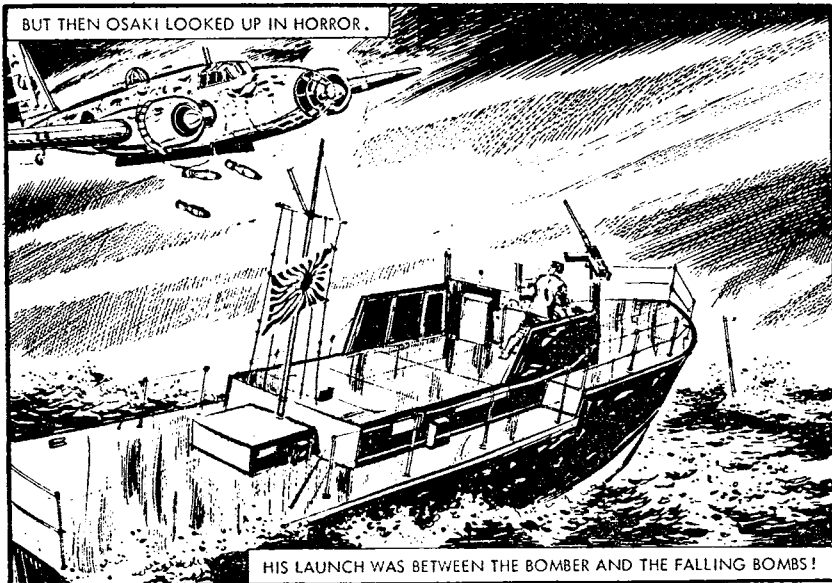
FROM A DISTANCE OSAKI WATCHED THE BRITISH SUB SLAM ITS HATCH AND PREPARE TO CRASH DIVE. HE SAW THE BOMBER CIRCLE AROUND AND COME IN FAST.



OPENING THE POWERFUL THROTTLES, OSAKI SHOT HIS LAUNCH TOWARDS THE DESCENDING SUB, INTENDING TO RAM AND DAMAGE ITS CONNING TOWER, SO KEEPING IT AFLOAT TO BE BOMBED.

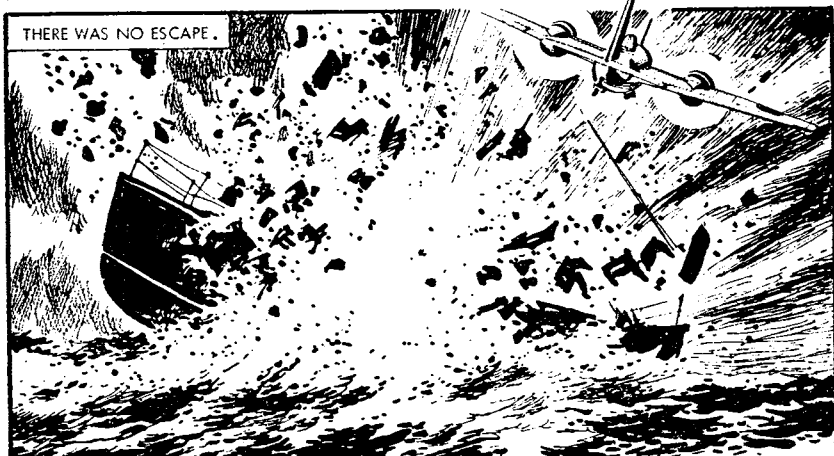


BUT THEN OSAKI LOOKED UP IN HORROR.



HIS LAUNCH WAS BETWEEN THE BOMBER AND THE FALLING BOMBS!

THERE WAS NO ESCAPE.



SO DIED OSAKI MANO, IRONICALLY SAVING FROM DEATH THE FRIENDS HE WAS COMMITTED TO KILLING.

UNAWARE OF THIS, DAN AND SAM
RELAXED IN THE SUB AS IT RACED
TOWARDS THE DESTROYER.

NO WONDER YOU BLOKES
ARE SO SHORT. FANCY LIVING
IN CUPBOARDS!

CHEEKY BLIGHTER!
WE RENDEZVOUS IN
TWO HOURS.

SAFELY THEY
MET WITH THE
DESTROYER.

OH FOR A
BATH AND A SHAVE!

THEY WERE HEARTILY CONGRATULATED.

MARVELLOUS SHOW! NO
TALLY OF THE SHIPS YOU HAMMERED
AS YET, BUT I'M BETTING IT'LL
BE CONSIDERABLE.

THANK YOU, SIR.
NOW ALL I WANT IS SLEEP.
WE'RE BUSHED!

THE WAR RAGED ON BUT JAPAN WAS FINALLY BEATEN. IN THE SUMMER OF 1946 DAN AND SAM RETURNED TO TOKYO— TO THE PLACES THEY KNEW SO WELL.



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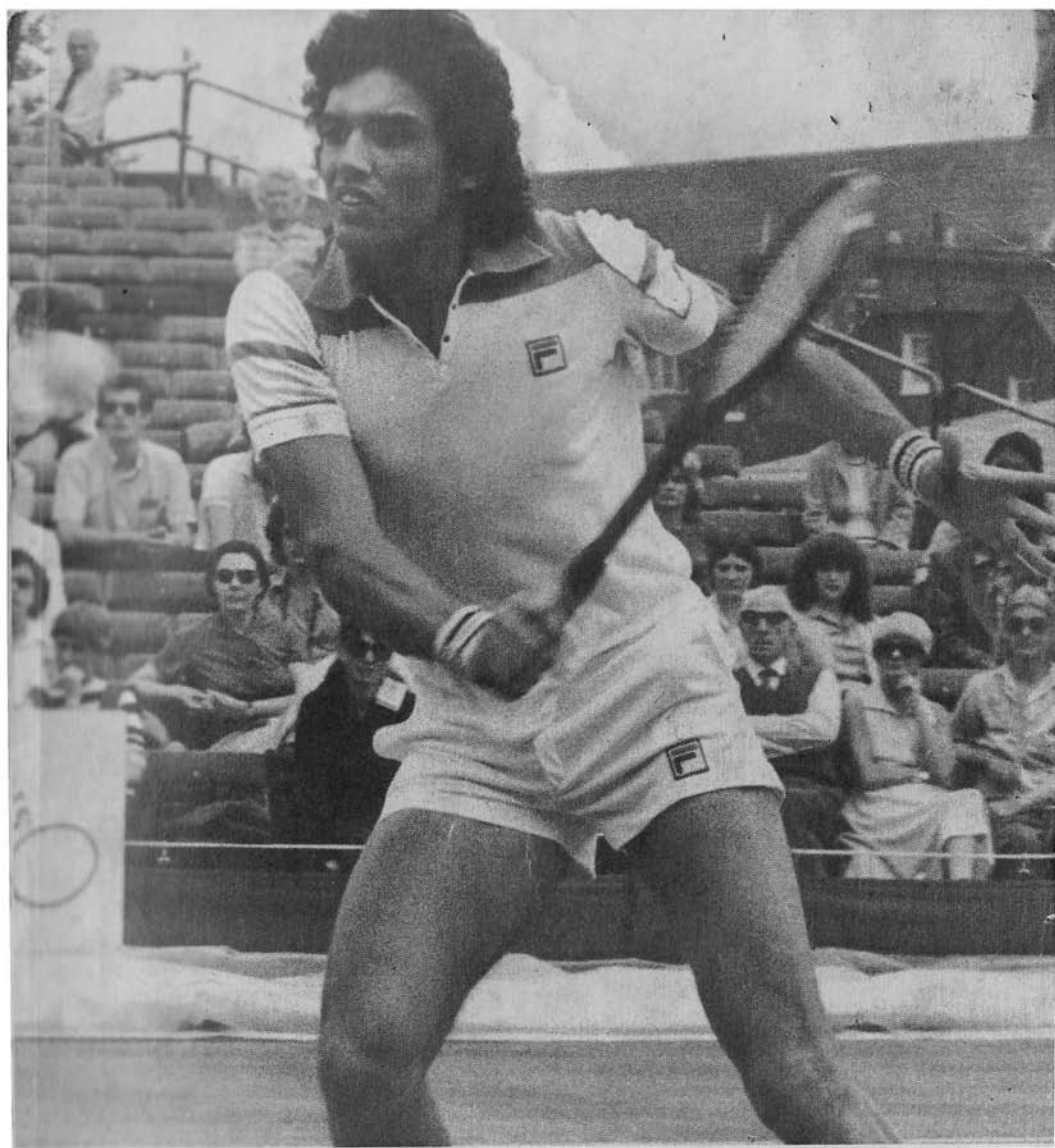
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Stars of Tennis — Victor Pecci

TERROR of the JAPS

INTO the packed harbour raced the Jap launch, the Jap machine gun in the bow pouring Jap bullets into the moored Jap submarines and ships. There were only two men on that launch — one Englishman, one Australian — and they'd just started the most daring raid of the war by having the hard neck to attack the Jap navy in a well-defended port.

They'd got in . . . but would they get out, these two bravest men in the whole of the Pacific?

 **Commando**

